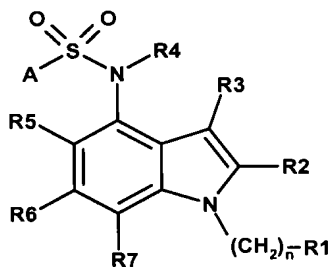


### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sulfonamide compound of general formula (Ia),



(Ia),

wherein

R<sup>1</sup> represents a -NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup> radical or a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted cycloaliphatic radical, which may contain at least one heteroatom selected from nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen as a ring member and/or which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom selected from nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen as a ring member containing mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxyl, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, alkoxy, cyano, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl; or an optionally at least mono-substituted phenyl or an optionally at least mono-substituted heteroaryl radical;

R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least

mono-substituted aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

$R^8$  and  $R^9$ , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, ~~optionally at least mono-substituted~~ aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

with the proviso that  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are not hydrogen at the same time, and if one of them,  $R^8$  or  $R^9$ , is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, ~~optionally at least mono-substituted~~  $C_1$ - $C_4$  aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, the other one is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, ~~optionally at least mono-substituted~~ aliphatic radical with at least five carbon atoms optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, or

$R^8$  and  $R^9$  together with bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted heterocyclic ring, which may contain at least one additional heteroatom as a ring member and/or may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, wherein each one of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,

A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered, which may be bonded via an optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylene, an optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkenylene or an optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkynylene group and/or ~~which~~ wherein the ring(s) may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member in one or more of its rings, which may be optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxyl, halogen, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, linear or

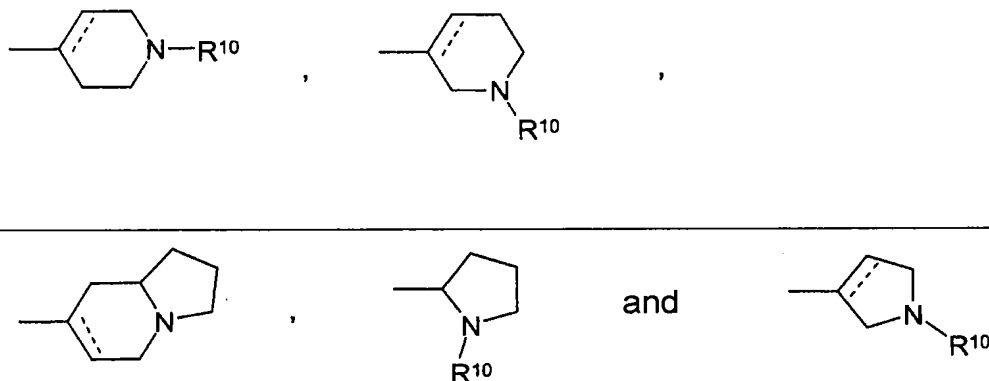
branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, -O-phenyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkoxy, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, or phenyl radical optionally at least mono-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylthio, trifluoromethyl radical, cyano radical or -NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> radical, wherein R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup>, identical or different, represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl; and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

~~optionally in form of one of its stereoisomers, preferably enantiomers or diastereomers, its racemate or in form of a mixture of at least two of its stereoisomers, preferably enantiomers or diastereomers, in any mixing ratio, or a salt thereof, preferably a corresponding, physiologically acceptable salt thereof, or a corresponding solvate thereof.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a -NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup> radical or a saturated or unsaturated optionally at least mono-substituted 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic radical, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member and which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- or 6-membered, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxyl, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,

~~preferably R<sup>1</sup> represents a -NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup> radical or a radical chosen from the group consisting of~~



wherein, if present, the dotted line represents an optional chemical bond, and  $R^{10}$  represents hydrogen, a linear or branched  $C_4$ - $C_6$  alkyl radical or a benzyl radical, preferably hydrogen or a  $C_4$ - $C_2$  alkyl radical.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$ , identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkenyl radical, or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl

preferably  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$ , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_4$ - $C_6$  alkyl radical,

more preferably  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  each represent hydrogen.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to one or more of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that wherein  $R^4$  represents hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkenyl radical, a linear or branched,

optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl

~~preferably R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl radical,~~

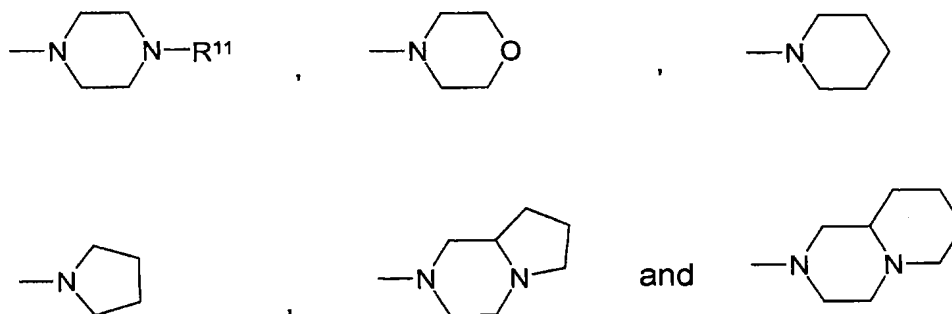
~~more preferably R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen or a C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl radical.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 4,~~ characterized in that wherein R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkenyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl, or

R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> together with bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which may contain at least one additional heteroatom as a ring member and/or which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- 6- or 7-membered, wherein each one of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl radical, or

R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a radical chosen from the group consisting of

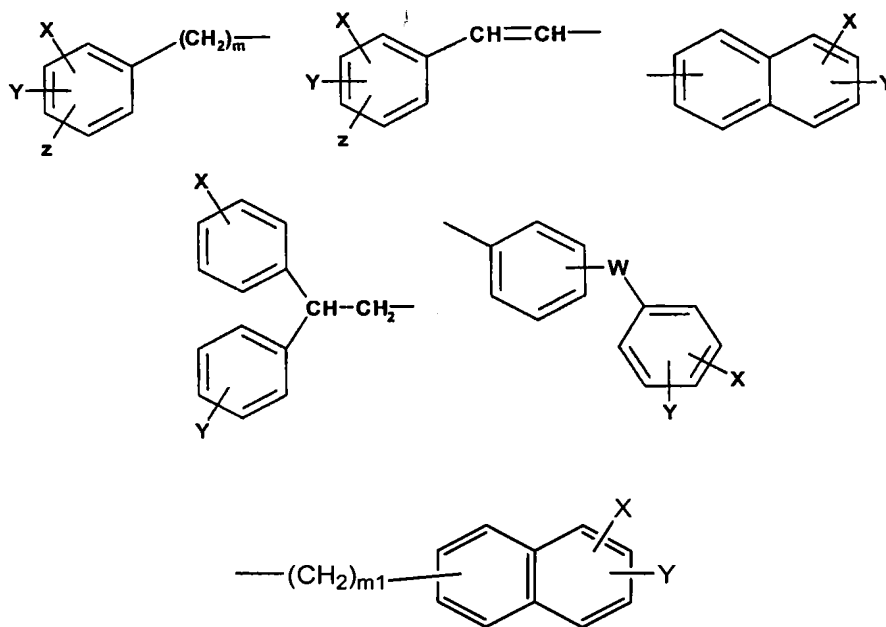


wherein R<sup>11</sup>, if present, represents hydrogen, a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl radical or a benzyl radical, preferably hydrogen, or a C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl radical.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 6,~~  
characterized in that wherein A represents  
~~an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein~~  
~~the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered, which may be bonded via an optionally at least~~  
~~mono-substituted C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene group, an optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-~~  
~~C<sub>6</sub> alkenylene group or an optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynylene~~  
~~group and/or wherein the ring(s) may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring~~  
~~member,~~

~~preferably A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic~~  
~~ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered and wherein one or more of~~  
~~the rings contain at least one heteroatom,~~

or a radical chosen from the group consisting of



wherein X, Y, Z, independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a  $-NR^{12}R^{13}$  radical,

wherein  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$ , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,

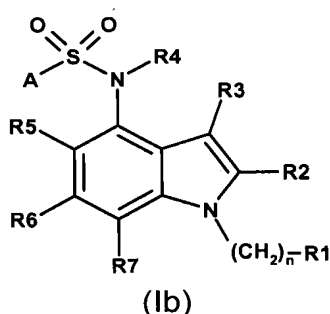
W represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a  $CH_2$ , O, S group or a  $NR^{14}$  radical,

wherein  $R^{14}$  is hydrogen or a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,

m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

$m_1$  is 1 or 2.

8. (Currently Amended) A sulfonamide compound of general formula (Ib),



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> represents a -NR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup> radical,

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, alkoxy, cyano, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, ~~optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, or an optionally at least mono-substituted phenyl or an optionally at least mono-substituted heteroaryl radical,~~

R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, ~~optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,~~

R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, ~~optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,~~

A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted phenyl or naphthyl ring optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxyl, halogen, linear or branched C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, -O-phenyl, linear or branched C<sub>1-6</sub>



perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> perfluoroalkoxy, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, or phenyl radical optionally at least mono-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylthio, trifluoromethyl radical, cyano radical or -NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> radical, wherein R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup>, identical or different, represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, which may be bonded via an optionally at least mono-substituted alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene group and/or which may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member in one or more of its rings, and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

~~optionally in form of one of its stereoisomers, preferably enantiomers or diastereomers, its racemate or in form of a mixture of at least two of its stereoisomers, preferably enantiomers or diastereomers, in any mixing ratio, or a salt thereof, preferably a corresponding, physiologically acceptable salt thereof, or a corresponding solvate thereof.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl radical, or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl

~~preferably R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup>, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl radical,~~

~~more preferably R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> each represent hydrogen.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein  $R^4$  represents hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkenyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl

~~preferably that  $R^4$  represents hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least substituted  $C_4$ - $C_6$  alkyl radical,~~

~~more preferably  $R^4$  represents hydrogen or a  $C_4$ - $C_2$  alkyl radical.~~

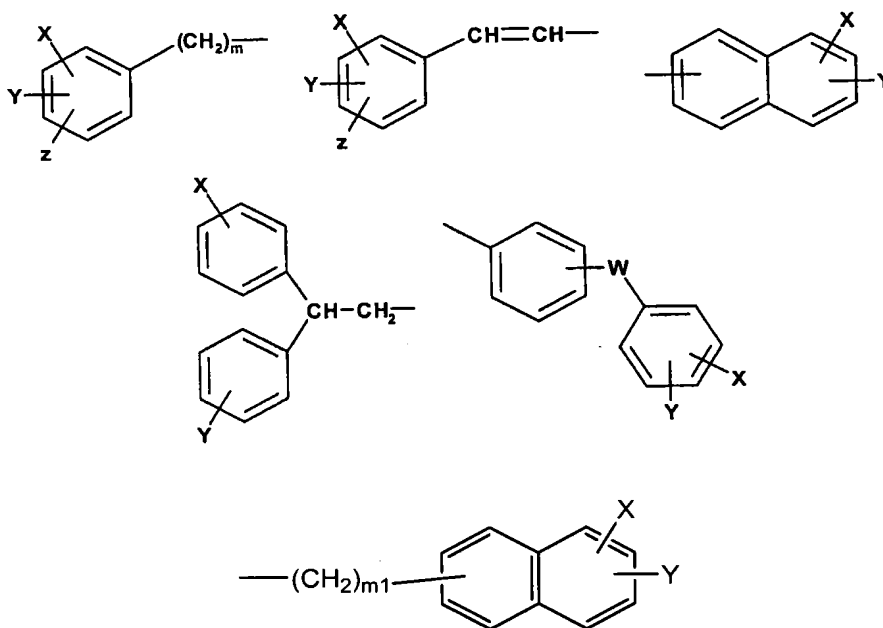
11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one or more of claims 8 to 10,~~ characterized in that wherein  $R^8$  and  $R^9$ , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl

~~preferably  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  represent hydrogen or a  $C_4$ - $C_2$  alkyl radical,  
with the proviso that  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are not hydrogen at the same time.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one or more of claims 8 to 11,~~ characterized in that wherein A represents ~~an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered, which may be bonded via an optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_4$ - $C_6$  alkylene group, an optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkenylene group or an optionally at least mono-substituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$  alkynylene group and/or wherein the ring(s) may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member,~~

~~preferably A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered and wherein one or more of the rings contain at least one heteroatom,~~

or a radical chosen from the group consisting of



wherein X, Y, Z, independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy, linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a  $-NR^{12}R^{13}$  radical,

wherein  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$ , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,

W represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a  $CH_2$ , O, S group or a  $NR^{14}$  radical,

wherein  $R^{14}$  is hydrogen or a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,

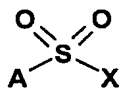
m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

$m_1$  is 1 or 2.

13. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~one or more of claims 8 to 12~~ selected from the group consisting of
- [2] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-naphthalene-2-sulfonamide,
- [3] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-naphthalene-1-sulfonamide,
- [4] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-4-phenylbenzenesulfonamide,
- [5] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-2-(naphthalene-1-yl)-ethanesulfonamide,
- [6] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-4-phenoxybenzenesulfonamide,
- [7] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-3,5-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide and
- [8] 6-chloro-N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indol-4-yl]-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole-5-sulfonamide

and their corresponding salts and solvates.

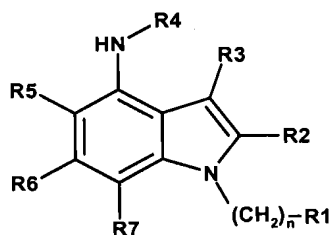
14 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for obtaining a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (Ia) and/or (Ib), according to ~~one or more of claims 1—13,~~ characterized in that wherein a compound of general formula (II), or one of its suitably protected derivatives,



(II)

wherein A has the meaning according to ~~one or more of claims 1—13,~~ and X is an acceptable leaving group, ~~preferably a halogen atom, more preferably chlorine is~~ reacted with at least one 4-aminoindole of general formula (III), or one of its suitably

protected derivatives;



(III)

wherein  $R^1$ - $R^7$  and  $n$  have the meaning according to ~~one or more of claims 1-13~~ to obtain the corresponding sulfonamide and optionally, from the latter, the protective groups may be removed ~~if necessary~~.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for obtaining a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (Ia) and/or (Ib), according to ~~one or more of claims 1-13~~, wherein  $R^1$ - $R^3$ ,  $R^5$ - $R^7$ ,  $n$  and  $A$  have the meaning according to ~~one or more of claims 1-13~~, and  $R^4$  represents  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, ~~characterized by the process comprising~~ reacting at least one compound of general formula (Ia) and/or at least one compound of general formula (Ib), wherein  $R^1$ - $R^3$ ,  $R^5$ - $R^7$ ,  $n$  and  $A$  have the meaning according to ~~one or more of claims 1-13~~, and  $R^4$  represents an hydrogen atom, with an alkyl halogenide or dialkyl sulfate.
16. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for preparing ~~the salts, preferably the physiologically acceptable salts~~ of the compounds of general formula (Ia) and/or (Ib), according to ~~one or more of claims 1-13~~, ~~consisting of~~ the process comprising reacting at least one compound of the general formula (Ia) and/or at least one compound of the general formula (Ib) with a mineral acid or organic acid in a suitable solvent.
17. (Currently Amended) A composition ~~medicament~~ comprising least one compound according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~ and ~~optionally one or more~~

Application No. 10/566,164

Reply to Official Action of March 18, 2009

pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

Claims 18-44 (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A medicament composition comprising at least one compound according to ~~one or more of claims 8 to 13 and optionally one or more~~ pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

Claims 46-72 (Cancelled).